

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claim 1 has been cancelled. Claims 110-129 have been added. Entry of this Supplemental Preliminary Amendment prior to Examination of the application is requested. No new matter has been added.

Claim 110 recites a cigarette comprising a wrapper including a sheet material with combustible organics that are evaporated from the sheet material by a high temperature burn zone of a burning coal advancing along the cigarette when it is smoked. Applicant was the first to contemplate the use of the heat of the burning coal of the cigarette to modify cigarette paper or wrapper to perform a particular function. For example, see page 23, beginning at line 28, where:

"When developing the sheet precursor, evaporative organic binder materials may be included...Alternatively, the sheet material may be dried and used in the precursor state and the high temperature cigarette burn zone is relied on to convert the precursor material..."

This use of the precursor material is not contemplated by Ito or any other prior art. Additionally, modifying the disclosure of ITO would not have been obvious because it was Ito's intent to provide a wrapper material which has been heat treated at the high temperatures to specifically remove the volatile organics from the material prior to smoking. Specifically, Ito is concerned with producing a wrapper for a cigarette which produces no harmful organic substance. This is accomplished by heat treating the paper before the paper is used on a cigarette and before the cigarette is smoked.

Ito discloses that this desired result is achieved by heat treating a cigarette paper made from a slurry at high temperatures to thermally decompose the paper by eliminating the organic materials therefrom. As taught in column 6, beginning at line 10 of the patent to Ito, a thermal

decomposition temperature of less than 500°C is not satisfactory because it takes too long for the heat treatment and secondly, the compounds may be insufficiently thermally decomposed whereby harmful organic substances could be produced when the cigarette is lit. Ito is therefore suggesting a heat treatment temperature preferably in the range of 800° to 1200°C to ensure that all the organics are removed from the ceramic materials before the material is applied to a cigarette. Ito does not require that the thermal degradation be carried out in a non-oxygen atmosphere. Instead, it is Ito's desire to heat treat the ceramic paper at a sufficiently high temperature to burn off the organic materials so that they are not evolved when the ceramic material is used on the cigarette. It is also Ito's desire to heat treat the sheet material at a sufficient high temperature to provide a ceramic paper which does not contain any organics and thereby avoids the production of any harmful organic substances with heat occurring from the smoking of the cigarette. Therefore, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to contradict the express teachings of Ito and provide the Ito cigarette paper with organics, the materials that Ito is attempting to eliminate.

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Claim 110, and the claims dependent there from, are patentable over the prior art.

Allowance of the pending claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

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By:   
Brian E. Hanlon  
Registration No. 40,449

1001 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597  
Tel: (202) 824-3000  
Fax: (202) 824-3001